

## Claims

- [c1] 1.A wireless communication system, comprising:  
a programmable interface coupleable between a device and a transmitter,  
the interface being operable to receive device data from the device and to  
provide user-configurable data to the transmitter; and  
a programming station selectively coupleable to the interface to enable a  
user to program the interface to provide the user-configurable data to the  
transmitter.
- [c2] 2.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the device data comprises  
operational data of the device.
- [c3] 3.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the device data is received by the  
interface at periodic intervals.
- [c4] 4.The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the programming station enables  
a user to establish the periodic interval that data is received by the interface.
- [c5] 5.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the user-configurable data  
comprises operational data of the device that is processed by the interface in  
response to programming provided by the programming station.
- [c6] 6.The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the desired device data  
comprises a sum of operational data of the device received by the interface  
periodically.
- [c7] 7.The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the programming station enables  
the wireless communication system user to reset the sum.
- [c8] 8.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the programming station  
comprises a computer system coupleable to the interface.
- [c9] 9.The system as recited in claim 8, further comprising a cell controller and  
an antenna.
- [c10] 10.The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the cell controller is coupled to

the computer system.

- [c1 1] 11.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the transmitter is a transponder.
- [c1 2] 12.An interface for a wireless communication system, wherein the interface is operable to receive a first set of data from a device and to provide a second set of data to the transmitter, further wherein the interface is operable to enable a system user to configure at least a portion of the second set of data provided to the transmitter.
- [c1 3] 13.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the interface is operable to process the first set of data received from the device, further wherein the at least a portion of the second set of data comprises data processed by the interface.
- [c1 4] 14.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the interface is programmable to enable a user to provide programming to the interface to direct the operation of the interface.
- [c1 5] 15.The interface as recited in claim 14, wherein the interface is coupleable to a programming station, the programming station being operable to provide the interface with programming to enable the interface to communicate with the device using a first communication protocol and with the transmitter using a second communication protocol.
- [c1 6] 16.The interface as recited in claim 14, wherein the interface is operable to be programmed to communicate with a first device using a first communication protocol and then re-programmed to communicate with a second device using a different communication protocol.
- [c1 7] 17.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the first set of data comprises device operating data.
- [c1 8] 18.The interface as recited in claim 17, wherein the interface is operable to enable a user to select desired device operating data to be provided to the

transmitter.

- [c19] 19.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the at least a portion of the second set of data is an ongoing count of a device operating parameter.
- [c20] 20.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the interface comprises a first electrical connector configured for mating engagement with a first external electrical connector coupled to a programming system.
- [c21] 21.The interface as recited in claim 20, wherein the interface comprises a second electrical connector configured for mating engagement with a second external electrical connector coupled to the device.
- [c22] 22.The interface as recited in claim 12, wherein the transmitter is a transponder.
- [c23] 23.The interface as recited in claim 21, wherein the interface comprises a third electrical connector configured for mating engagement with the transmitter.
- [c24] 24.A method of operating a wireless communication system to enable a system user to configure device data communicated by a transmitter coupled to a device, comprising the acts of:  
connecting a programmable interface to a programming station operated by a system user;  
operating the programming station to configure the programming of the programmable interface to provide the device data to the transmitter in a user selected configuration; and  
coupling the programmable interface between the device and the transmitter.
- [c25] 25.The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the act of transmitting a unique identifier for the transmitter with the data from the device.
- [c26] 26.The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

reconnecting the programmable interface to the programming station; and  
operating the programming station to reconfigure the programming of the  
programmable interface to provide the device data in a different user  
selected configuration.

- [c27] 27.A method of operating a wireless communication system to enable a  
system user to configure data communicated from a medical asset by a  
transmitter, comprising the acts of:  
connecting a programmable interface to a programming station operated by  
a system user;  
operating the programming station to configure the programming of the  
programmable interface to provide the data to the transmitter from the  
medical asset in a configuration selected by the system user; and  
coupling the programmable interface between the medical asset and the  
transmitter.
- [c28] 28.The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising the act of  
transmitting a unique identifier for the transmitter with the data from the  
device.
- [c29] 29.The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising:  
reconnecting the programmable interface to the programming station; and  
operating the programming station to reconfigure the programming of the  
programmable interface to provide the data in a different configuration  
selected by the system user.
- [c30] 30.The method as recited in claim 27, wherein operating the programming  
station comprises establishing an interval that a medical asset parameter is  
to be monitored by the programmable interface.